GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:300
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2005
REHABILITATION OF NEGRITO AND MONGOLOID TRIBES
Patil Shri Balasaheb Vikhe

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the programmes undertaken to rehabilitate the Negrito and Mongoloid tribes of Andaman and Nicobar Islands after the devastation caused by the Tsunami;

(b) the status of these programmes and the outcome so far; and

(c) the steps taken to ascertain the population status of these tribes?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 300 FOR 13.12.2005.

1. There are four Negrito Tribes viz. Andamanese, Onges, Jarawas and Sentinelese. There are two Mongoloid Tribes viz. Nicobarese and Shompens. There was no loss of life in respect of the Negrito Tribes of Andaman Islands. However, the houses of Andamanese and Onges were affected due to the Tsunami, though not of the Jarawas and Sentinelese. The death toll due to Tsunami in respect of Nicobarese tribe is 2955 and in respect of Shompens is 4. The houses of some of the Nicobarese and Shompens were also destroyed due to Tsunami. To rehabilitate the affected tribals, A & N Administration has initiated the following measures:-

i) Payment of Ex-gratia to the affected and bereaved persons,

ii) Providing the shelters/houses,

iii) Providing livelihood measures,

iv) Restoring the essential services

2. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has also released an amount of Rs.2.00 crores to the Andaman and Nicobar Administration under the scheme of Development of Primitive Tribal Groups during the year 2004-05 for housing and other related infrastructural support required for re-settling the PTGs in Tsunami affected areas.

3. Intermediate shelters have been provided to the affected persons. Permanent shelters can be provided in consultation with the Tribals. First round of the consultation is over and the tribals have requested for some time to indicate their preference for type and design of houses/permanent shelter.

4. The following livelihood activities have been undertaken for the benefit of the tribals:

i) Site clearance for development of plantation and short term crops.

ii) Providing poultry birds.

iii) Clearance of debris from the affected area, engaging affected tribals on daily wages rate.

iv) Under the centrally sponsored scheme such as SGRY (Sampoorn Gramin Rozgar Yojna) being implemented for the livelihood of the tribals, the wages are paid partly as food grains (5 kgs rice) at BPL (Below Poverty Line) rate and the remaining amount in cash as cash component.

5. The A&N Administration has decided to constitute a committee of experts to undertake a census of the Shompen Primitive Tribe of Great Nicobar Island. The population of the Nicobarese tribe as per Census 2001 was 28,653.